

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. In a distributed network environment having a server computer system and a plurality of managed resources, each resource maintaining a plurality of objects, a method of representing at least one of the objects comprising:

receiving a first schema document that conforms to a property sheet

5 definition such that the first schema document defines a property sheet;

receiving a two or more schema documents that conform to a property page definition to thereby define a plurality of property pages, wherein at least one property page originates from a first resource and at least one property page originates from a second resource, the second resource being different from the first resource;

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modifying the property sheet to include the received property pages; and wherein the property sheet represents the object.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the property sheet comprises object-type information applicable to objects of the same type, and wherein the property pages comprise resource-specific information.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display information related to an instance of an object;

accessing the property sheet related to the object-type of the instance of the object;

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displaying object-type information gleaned from the property sheet;

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using the property pages of the property sheet, displaying information related to resources associated with the instance of the object; requesting the resources associated with the instance of the object to supply instance-specific information; and displaying received instance-specific information from the associated resources.

4. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein at least one property page includes a pointer to executable code on its associated resource for resolving a request for instance specific information.

5. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the code relates to a search engine on the associated resource.

6. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined definitions for the property sheet and property pages are XML document type definitions.

7. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

8. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 2.

9. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 3.

10. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 6.

11. In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer program product readable by a computer and having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a property sheet;

a first property page associated with a first resource;

5 a second property page associated with a second resource; and

wherein the first and second property pages are stored in association with
the property sheet.

12. A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the property sheet relates to object type information and wherein the property pages relate to resource-specific information.

13. A computer program product as defined in claim 12 wherein at least one property page includes a pointer to executable code on its associated resource for resolving a request for instance specific information.